whether the data arrives via the GMAC or the FEMAC. The

result of this is considerable simplification.--.

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 with the

following:

--In the case of the GMAC, the request for an appropriate data

packet for a FIFO memory 20 takes too long to utilize the

transmission speed of the GMAC on the line fully. In this

case, all twelve transmit FIFO memories 20 request and

assemble frames in parallel. After assembly, the data packets

are forwarded to the GMAC in the correct sequence and are

transmitted onto the GIGABIT Ethernet line by the GMAC.--.

Page 17, top, change the heading "Patent claims" to -- We

Claim:--.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1 to 8 and enter the following new claims.

9.   A method for operating a switching system for data

packets, which comprises:

providing a switching system having inputs and outputs;

temporarily storing data packets at an input of the switching

system; and

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sending only a message to an output of the switching system when each data packet arrives at the input and placing the message into a queue at the output.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the sending step is performed by sending a message containing:

a reference;

information about a priority for correct marshaling of the data packet; and

information about a length of the data packet.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the sending step is performed by sending the message along a given transmission path, and which further comprises transmitting the data packet through the given transmission path but through a separate logical channel.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the given transmission path is a physical transmission path.

13. The method according to claim 9, which further comprises returning a further message to an input memory from an

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appropriate output as soon as the data packet can be dispatched through the output, and only then transmitting the data packet to an appropriate destination.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the returning step is performed by returning the further message containing information about the destination of the data packet.

15. The method according to claim 9, which further comprises combining messages into message packets and transmitting the message packets together through the switching system.

16. The method according to claim 9, which further comprises handling transmission of a message with a data flow controller.

17. The method according to claim 9, which further comprises handling transmission of messages with a data flow controller.

18. The method according to claim 9, which further comprises producing, if a data packet is transmitted to a plurality of destinations, only a plurality of messages and placing the messages into a respective queue.

19. A method for operating a switching system for data packets, which comprises: